

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An air distribution system for combined refrigerators of the type which comprises comprising:

a freezing compartment (10) and a refrigerating compartment (20);

an air-cooling compartment (40) lodging at least one evaporator (45);

a distributing duct (60) having a rear window (62) opened to the air-cooling compartment (40), at least one front opening (65) communicating with the freezing compartment (10), and one end opening (64) maintained in communication with the refrigerating compartment (20); and

at least one fan (46, 47) producing a forced airflow from the air-cooling compartment (40) to the freezing compartment (10) and to the refrigerating compartment (20),

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distributing duct (60) carries a conduct (63), having a first end coupled to the end opening (64) of the distributing duct (60), and a second end selectively placed in fluid communication with one of the parts defined by the distributing duct (60) and by the air-cooling compartment (40), said conduct (63) being internal to the distributing duct (60).

2. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct (63) is incorporated to the distributing duct (60).

3. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the distributing duct (60) comprises a rear basic portion (60a) in the form of a vertically disposed tray, having a rear wall provided with a rear window (62) and defining at least part of a front wall of the air-cooling department (40), and a front cover portion (60b) to be seated and affixed against the rear basic portion (60a) and being provided with at least one front opening (65).

4. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the front cover portion (60b) defines a wall portion of the conduct (63) when assembled.

5. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct (63) is maintained in selective fluid communication with one of the parts defined by the distributing duct (60) and by the air-cooling compartment (40) by means of respective front opening (66) and rear opening (67) produced by the rupture of corresponding wall portions of the conduct (63).

6. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct (63) conducts a forced airflow supplied, through the inlet opening (66), coming from the distributing duct (60), to whose rear window (62) is operatively associated a fan (46).

7. (Currently Amended) The air distribution system according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the conduct (63) conducts a forced airflow, which is produced by a fan (47) that is operatively associated to the end opening (64) and to the refrigerating compartment (20), and which is supplied by the air-cooling compartment (40) to the conduct (63), through the rear opening (67).